

### Abstract

5 A description is given of a process for preparing methyl formate by reacting excess  
methanol with carbon monoxide under superatmospheric pressure and at elevated  
temperature in the presence of alkali metal methoxide or alkaline earth metal methoxide as  
catalyst in a pressure-rated reactor, in which the use of at least two reactor elements,  
preferably operated in countercurrent, at about 100°C and a pressure of about 100 bar in  
10 combination with a solids-free desalting of the reaction product makes possible very  
economical, largely trouble-free production of methyl formate in any desired quality and  
with a very good production capacity.

15 Furthermore, the process for solids-free desalting and apparatuses for carrying out this  
process are described.